**Course Name: Urban Context Studio**

**Number of credits: 8 ECTS**

**Period: Fall Semester**

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| Coordinating institution | Nirma University |
| Lecturer | Prof. Jaydeep Bhagat, Prof Jitendra Meghani and Prof. Dhaval Chauhan |
| Level | Bachelors |
| Course duration | 15 Weeks |

**Overall introduction (main concept and understanding)**

The studio has been formulated to explore the interface between architecture and urban design. Urban processes have been introduced through a study of a precinct that has a variety of features (Natural and man-made) &amp; aspects of urbanity to arrive at concerns, issues and most importantly vision and ideas. These aspects would be analyzed, adapted and adopted to integrate the building into its context. The understanding of urban context would then be further demonstrated through form and architectural language.

‘Urban context studio’ in compliance with the course objective further aims at incorporating a set of values that not only refers to immediate but the wider context into the design of building or buildings. Thus, an attempt here would be to deal with architectural projects that respond to urban conditions, to arrive at an appropriate design program, scale and language.

**Keywords (5-8 words)**

Urban context, design program, vision, urban insert, urban components

**Target audience**

Bachelors in Architecture

**Prerequisite**

None

**Objective**

The objectives set for the studio course are –

* To establish a relationship of the proposed project in the urban context
* To analyze character, abstraction and design development
* To prepare a master plan and conceptual architectural design

**General learning outcome**

By the end of this course, successful students will:

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| Knowledge | * Define different elements of an urban fabric |
| Comprehensive | * Establish a relationship of the proposed project in the urban context * Understand the issues related to the project |
| Application | * Design a structure according to the requirements of the urban area |
| Analysis | * Analyze institutional character, abstraction & design development |
| Synthesis | * Integrate building systems in the design * Prepare the detailed architectural design and master plan |

**Course materials (examples of student’s work)**

* <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YrK_4yS5XL0m3lQi84_YUEUsW6B9vaeR/view?usp=sharing>
* <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BvQADF7lL-4_m1BvqGWOzJT61PWzOxzp/view?usp=sharing>

**Self-examination question and assignment**

Note: Following studio topics as mentioned below will be given as an optional module for students to choose in an urban context. Students can choose any one topic out of 4 topics that will be offered.

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| **Unit No.** | **Syllabus: Topic** | **Studio  / Sub Topic** |
|  | Service-oriented building | Design development of structures and services of a complex building design.  Relationship of different functional, service and movement areas for User group.   Awareness and applications of Environmental Concerns and Energy Efficiency.  Design Exercise: Design problem of a building involving a high level of services and advanced structural systems eg. Hotels, Health care like hospitals, clinics, asylum, Wellbeing like spa, sauna, sports facility building, veterinary hospitals etc. |
|  | Conservation / Reuse /Urban Insert | Urban Insert  Developing an understanding of the urban sector  Issues regarding structure, building composition – its correlation with part and whole and infrastructure  Building laws and controls, Building typology and morphology  Principles of conservation and reuse of buildings in a given context  Building expressions in relation to tradition and modern times  Urban insert, the relationship of the proposed building to the surrounding built-form character  Design Exercise: New building in historic context, conservation, reuse of building |
|  | Layout and design of commercial spaces | Commercial Building  Developing an understanding of basic commercial building concepts in accordance with the multi-functionality of buildings.  Methods of building with several combinations of materials.  To integrate detailed requirements, careful site analysis and functional design to produce corporate identities and creative spirits.  Introduction to urban development control regulation, codes and bye-laws.  Design Exercise: The subject may include shopping complexes, malls, Grocery stores, multiplex, office buildings etc. |
|  | Green building & Design of public spaces | Design Exercise: Design involving advanced climatic responsive building, Green Rating building, Bio-mimicry, Mobile Building, Based on New material-strategy etc.   1. Issue-based or live project-based 2. Design Exercise: Involving Rehabilitation project, riverfront development, Lack front development etc. |

**Course assignments will constitute a multi-part project:**

The pedagogy adopted for this semester, very interestingly, attempts to introduce scales and complexities gradually and creates cognizance of the nitty-gritty at an urban scale.

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| **Design Milestones** | **Details** |
| Reading elements | Associating scales by abstracting urban elements from the study area |
| Contextual studies | City-level and Area level analysis to arrive at issues, concerns, vision statements and key interventions |
| Contextual readings  (Site visit) | Experiencing & understanding responses in terms of character, scale, realising the vision, incorporating developmental pressures, real estate, etc. |
| Contextual readings  (secondary sources) | Analysing urban insert cases to understand the response to context  Part A - Urban insert:  architectural responses to ‘Context’  Part B - Contextual responses by eminent architects |
| Program brief | Design program identification, area calculations, etc. |
| Design development | Collage on study area readings vision statement, Key interventions at study area level, design program identification, area calculations, etc. |
| Master plan | components – street design, building footprint, parking provision, guidelines, proposed vis-à-vis existing layers to illustrate contextual responses, etc. |
| Architectural design project 1:200 | Design demonstration illustrating contextual understanding through form, interface details, edge condition, façade treatment, and service core – the public realm details. |

**Literature**

Recommended:

* Daniel Williams , “Sustainable Design: Ecology, Architecture & Planning” , John Wiley &

Sons, 2007

* Lynch, Kevin, "The Image of the City", MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1960.
* Krier, Rob, "Urban Space", Academy Editions, London,1967
* Koenigsberger, etal., "Manual of Tropical Housing & Building: Part I - Climatic Design", Orient Longman, Chennai , 1984.
* Evans, Martin, "Housing, Climate and Comfort". The Architectural Press, London, 1980
* Kishan, Baker and Szokolay, Climate Responsive Architecture. Tata McGraw Hill, 2002
* Charles correa, “A Place in the Shade: The New Landscape & Other Essays”,2010
* Charles correa, “Housing and Urbanization”,2000,Thames and Hudson
* Christopher Benninger,”Architecture to Modern India”,2016
* Raj Rewal, “Humane Habitat at Low Cost: CIDCO, Belapur”, New Mumbai,2000,

**Course workload**

The table below summarizes course workload distribution:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **Learning outcomes** | **Assessment** | **Estimated workload (hours)** |
| **In-class activities (190 hours)** | | | |
| Lectures | Understanding theories, concepts, methodology and tools | Class participation | 40 |
| In-class assignments, field assignment | Understanding various aspects and common problems in an urban fabric. | Class participation and preparedness for assignments | 65 |
| Moderated in-class discussions | Understanding various policy and management contexts and common problems in urban areas. | Class participation and preparedness for discussions | 65 |
| Group Assignment | Ability to interpret data, analyze audience, and use the concepts, tools, and methods for communicating their work | Quality of group assignments and individual presentations | 20 |
| **Independent work (50 hours)** | | | |
| Group work:   * Contribution to the group case-study projects * Contribution to the preparation and delivery of individual presentation * Contribution to the web-application | Ability to interpret data, to analyze audience, and to use the concepts, tools, and methods for communicating their ideas. | Quality of group assignments and individual presentations | 35 |
| Group presentation | Ability to interpret data, analyze audience, and to use the concepts, tools, and methods for communicating their work. | Quality of group assignments and individual presentations | 15 |
| ***Total*** |  |  | ***240 hours*** |

**Grading**

The student’s performance will be based on the following:

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| **Assessment** | * Progress assessment (50%):   - Presentation – 50% of progress assessment  - Model – 30% of progress assessment  - Design Discussion – 10% of progress assessment  - Pre-final jury with model – 30% of progress assessment     * Final assessment (50%): * Midterm jury – 40% of the final assessment * Final jury – 60% of the final assessment |
| **Evaluation** | A+ (10)  A (9)  B+ (8)  B (7)  C+ (6)  C (5)  Interim Fail (0)  Final Fail (0) |